



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

www.sos.arkansas.gov

Volume 3 Issue 1

Spring 2005

New Voter Registration System for Arkansas

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels has awarded the contract for a new centralized statewide voter registration system to Election Systems & Software (ES&S) of Omaha, Neb. Daniels announced the decision following a rigorous three-month selection process.

ES&S's PowerProfile® voter registration system — successfully operating in New Mexico and currently implementing in Nebraska — will be a uniform, centralized database of registered voters in Arkansas. It offers a number of enhancements required under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 that the state's current voter registration system cannot provide.

"The Help America Vote Act provided us with an opportunity to make significant improvements to our voter registration system," Daniels said. "Since HAVA's passage, my office has been working closely with our 75 county clerks in determining their needs for a new system, and how we could construct that system

to be of greatest benefit to our election officials and voters."

Daniels went on to note that ES&S offered a proven product with an excellent record of customer service with Arkansas's elections officials.

The Web-based voter registration system, which will cost approximately \$5 million to develop, will be paid by Arkansas's share of federal HAVA funding. It replaces the existing voter database that has been in use since January 1996. While the current database is maintained separately in each county, the new ES&S system will be a secure, centralized system that will streamline data management and system operation. The user-friendly software enables county clerks to share information across county lines, helping them eliminate duplicate registrations and easily transfer voters from county to county. Officials will also use the software to assign voting districts, qualify candidates and organize elections.

(See VOTER Cont. on Page 2)

Fallen Soldiers of the 39th Infantry Brigade Honored

Soldiers of the 39th Infantry Brigade who died in Iraq were honored April 24 by a motorcycle rally and ceremony at the State Capitol. The event was organized by members of the 39th and co-hosted by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels.

The memorial ride began at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock and concluded in front of the Arkansas State Capitol building. A public ceremony followed on the steps of the State Capitol. As the names of the 33 fallen heroes were read, a

bell chimed to honor each soldier. Featured speakers included Major General Don Morrow, the Adjutant General for the Arkansas National Guard; Brigadier General Ronald Chastain, the Commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade; and Secretary Daniels. Chief Warrant Officer 03 (Chief) Dennis Bradley coordinated the "9th Brigade Combat Team Fallen Heroes Motorcycle Memorial Ride."

(See FALLEN Cont. on Page 2)



Although a major focus of the 85th General Assembly has been education, legislators remain dedicated to improving our elections procedures, as well. My staff and I have worked closely with the General Assembly to develop legislation that will help further implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and make elections and results more accessible to all Arkansans.

Some of the major bills pertaining to elections are:

- Act 501, sponsored by Sen. Tracy Steele, moves the state's presidential primary elections to the first Tuesday in February in presidential election years. The move is designed to make Arkansas more of a deciding factor in selecting party nominees.

- Act 654, sponsored by Rep. Ray Kidd, requires all direct read electronic voting machines to include a voter-verified paper trail. The paper "receipt" will allow voters to instantly verify that their votes were recorded accurately. Officials can also utilize the paper receipts during race re-counts.

(Continued on Page 2)

501-682-1010



(Continued from front page)

- Act 731, sponsored by Rep. Dawn Creekmore, requires the Secretary of State to file a complaint with the State Board of Election Commissioners if a county board does not file preliminary and unofficial election results within 48 hours.

- HB 2748, sponsored by Rep. Jody Mahony, sets guidelines for selecting, testing and utilizing HAVA-compliant electronic voting machines in Arkansas.

There are many more measures that make changes such as improving early and absentee voting procedures, as well as setting new dates for school and municipal elections. A full report of new voting-related laws will be available from my Elections Division.

I am also very pleased with the progress we're making toward full implementation of the federal HAVA requirements. Awarding the contract for the new statewide voter registration system was a major milestone, and we are working hard to ensure it fully meets the needs of Arkansas election officials and voters. Our next big step is to help counties upgrade their voting equipment to HAVA standards. Federal funding will go a long way toward making those purchases, and we're working to keep actual costs to a minimum for the state and counties. It is a considerable investment in our elections process, but one that I believe will make our system more efficient and more reliable for our 2006 elections and beyond.

If you have questions about new election laws, please call our Elections Division, (501) 682-5070 or learn more on our website, www.sos.arkansas.gov.

Do You Need A Speaker?

If you would like someone from the Secretary of State's office to speak to your organization, please call 501-682-1010. Presentations are available including such diverse topics as the functions of the Secretary of State's office, current voter services, a history of the Capitol Building or Business and Commercial Services Division.



FALLEN (Cont. from front page)

Bradley served with the 39th Brigade in Iraq and was a member of the 39th Support Battalion, which lost four members on April 24, 2004, in Taji, Iraq, during an enemy rocket attack. The 39th Infantry Brigade was mobilized on October 12, 2003, and was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division during a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Bradley says the purpose of the ride "was to honor the memories of all 39th soldiers who lost their lives while serving in Iraq."

"Chief Bradley came to me with his idea to honor the members of our brigade with a memorial motorcycle ride while we were still in Iraq," stated Lieutenant Colonel John Edwards, Staff Judge Advocate for the Brigade, who also assisted with the event. "His concept was to have an event that focused on the lives that were lost and to honor those soldiers and their families," added Edwards.

For more information about the memorial ride, and to view the names and photographs of members of the 39th Brigade who died in Iraq, visit www.cafearkansas.com.

VOTER (Cont. from front page)

"This centralized system will enable state and county election officials to manage elections more quickly and more easily than ever before," said ES&S president and CEO Aldo Tesi. "This technology is best in its class for voter registration. It will significantly increase efficiency and is compliant with new federal election requirements."

ES&S was chosen over proposals submitted by Saber Consulting of Salem, Ore., and Accenture LLP of Reston, Va., which manages the state's current voter registration system.

"Our advisory committee and selection team, which included a number of county clerks, helped evaluate the proposals," Daniels said. "ES&S's commitment to excellent customer service in Arkansas, their proven voter registration product and experienced project management team set ES&S apart from the rest. We look forward to working with them."

SOS staff is now working with ES&S to customize the system's features for use in Arkansas. The full system will be in place by January 2006.

Let Us Know

If you receive duplicate issues or need to update your mailing address, please let us know with an e-mail to general_info@sosmail.state.ar.us or call (501) 682-3470.

National Young Voters Month Activities Hosted by the Secretary of State

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, in cooperation with the National Association of Secretaries of State, hosted National Young Voters Month activities March 8 through March 11 at the Arkansas Education Association Building in Little Rock. Students and their sponsors from 35 high schools across Arkansas participated in the voter education event. Secretary Daniels hosted the event to encourage more young people in Arkansas to vote so that their voices will be heard in the political process.

High Schools that attended the Young Voters Month programs were: Bergman; Bryant; Cushman; Des Arc; Dewitt; Dumas; Fouke; Gurdon; Guy-Perkins; Harmony Grove; Hector; Helena-West Helena Central; Lake Hamilton; Lakeside, Lake Village; Magnet Cove; Mammoth Springs; Marmaduke; Mountain Home; Norfork; North Pulaski, Jacksonville; Northside, Fort Smith; Oak Ridge Central, Ravenden Springs; Palestine-Wheatley; Plainview Rover; Rivercrest, Wilson; and Sulphur Rock. Little Rock



Students voice their views on current events during Young Voters Week.

schools attending were: Hall, J.A. Fair and Robinson.

Activities the students participated in included a discussion of current events and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). They also participated in skits on the history of voting and how a bill becomes a law. The day's events even included a forum where the students voiced their opinions about voter participation and current state and federal issues affecting their part of the state.

The participants had a chance to see government in action when they visited the House and Senate galleries to watch the proceedings of the Arkansas Legislative Session. Several legislators came to speak to their young constituents before the students ended the day with a tour of the State Capitol building.

"I hope these students will be enthusiastic about discussing voter issues in their classrooms and communities," said Secretary Daniels. "It is imperative that we, as leaders of our state and community, encourage young people to vote and participate in the political process so that their voices, views and opinions will be heard," he added.

Secretary of State Sponsors Sisters Cities Conference



2005
Arkansas
Sister Cities
State Conference

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels sponsored the 2005 Arkansas Sister Cities Conference, on April 15 at the State Capitol.

The theme for this year's conference was "Back to Basics: The Grass Roots of Sister Cities International." Session topics included developing and maintaining a Sister Cities relationship; collaborating with other Sister Cities; and looking to the future of Sister Cities International, the 50th anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. in 2006.

Participants also discussed ways to strengthen current Sister Cities relationships in Arkansas, as well as encourage

other cities across the state to forge new partnerships with cities in other countries.

Seven major cities in Arkansas currently have Sister Cities in other countries. Those cities are: Fort Smith with Cisterna, Italy; Pine Bluff with Iwai City, Japan; North Little Rock with Uiwang City, South Korea; Fayetteville with Santiago, Dominican Republic; Conway with Quakenbruck, Germany; Hot Springs with Hanamaki, Japan; and Little Rock with Hanam City, South Korea, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Changchun, China; Ragusa, Italy; and Mons, Belgium.

For more information on the Sister Cities program, contact Judi Dietz, (501) 682-5080 or judi.dietz@sos.arkansas.gov.



Capitol Briefing

Business/Notary Workshops

The Secretary of State recently partnered with the Arkansas Small Business Development Centers to provide seminars on Choosing a Legal Form of Business and Becoming a Notary. SOS staff members Steve Hollowell, Roy Peterson and Rebecca Barfield have conducted seminars in Little Rock, Springdale, Fort Smith, Magnolia and Dumas.

The latest of these seminars were "Becoming a Notary," held March 22 at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and "Choosing a Legal Form of Business," held March 25 at the U.S. Bank, One Riverfront Place, in North Little Rock.

For more information on hosting a seminar in your area, contact Steve Hollowell at (501) 682-3012 or steve.hollowell@sos.arkansas.gov.

Using the State Capitol to Teach

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is proud to offer summer teacher workshops again in 2005. The in-service training strives to keep teachers informed about classroom resources available from his office.

"Using the State Capitol To Teach" will be presented this summer at educational cooperatives throughout the state. Topics will include the "Civics Alive" curriculum, "Making the Most of Capitol Field Trips," "Capitol Classroom Resources" and a hands-on session using the internet as a teaching aid, with emphasis on the Secretary of State's main web page and its link for students, "The Traveler's Guide to Arkansas."

Free teaching materials are available to workshop attendees, and teachers receive four to six hours in-service credit for the workshops. Registration through the regional co-ops is required. For more information, contact Ann Clements, education coordinator, (501) 682-3472 or ann.clements@sos.arkansas.gov.

Election Coordinator Chosen to Participate in Leadership Class

Kimberly Gardner, an election coordinator with Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' office, has been chosen to participate in the 2005 Faulkner County Leadership Institute.

A selection committee governed by the Faulkner County Leadership Institute's Central Board chose the 21 participants in this year's class. Class members attend monthly presentations on topics such as: education, government, human services, economic development, health, media, community development and leadership. The class culminates with a graduation program in November.

The FCLI's objective is to give participants a broad knowledge of programs and issues while providing a forum for developing fresh solutions for the concerns facing the community.

"I hope to use the skills I learn from the class to enhance my duties as an election coordinator with Secretary of State Daniels' office. I also hope to gain a greater appreciation for Conway and Faulkner County," said Gardner.



Secretary of State Charlie Daniels with Kimberly Gardner

There's something for you at the Capitol Gift Shop

Come by the Gift Shop the next time you're visiting the State Capitol and see a variety of Arkansas keepsakes and gifts. The Gift Shop has something for everyone with several new items now available.

The Gift Shop recently added to its inventory gold cuff links featuring the Arkansas State Seal. Ties, lapel pins, travel mugs and tote bags featuring the State Capitol are other items also available. And there are still a limited number of commemorative 2004 State Capitol Holiday ornaments. Kids will enjoy the great selection of yo-yos, rulers, pencils, pens, magnets, games, key chains and puzzles featuring the Capitol and Arkansas.

If you get hungry while shopping, the Gift Shop has food and snack products made right here in Arkansas. Brent and Sam's Cookies, Otis and Betty's Trail Mix, J & M Cheese Straws and Robbie's Salsa are among some of the products available. There is also an assortment of cookbooks featuring recipes from around the state.

The Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All state employees receive a 10 percent discount on all gift shop purchases.

If you'd like more information on Gift Shop items or to place an order, call Leighanne Harvey at 501-682-3593. Coming in Summer 2005, you'll be able to log on to www.sos.arkansas.gov and order Gift Shop items online.

Capitol Galleries to Host Variety of Exhibits

The Secretary of State's office has a full slate of exhibits planned for the State Capitol galleries in 2005. Visitors can peruse interesting displays in the four enclosed cases on the first floor, as well as in a new exhibit space on the basement level.

The Lower Level Gallery debuted in February with a special display of works by Helena photographer Rogerline Johnson. Currently on display in that space is "A Capitol in Progress," a photo essay showing the phases of construction on the State Capitol. The photos will be a regular feature that rotates with temporary exhibits in the future.

First-floor exhibits planned for the remainder of 2005 include :

- "A World Fit for Children," a traveling exhibit advocating children's rights. The display, which opened April 28, presented by Soka Gakkai International.
- In June, the Secretary of State is partnering with the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) to showcase blues music in Arkansas.
- Railroading in Arkansas will be featured beginning in August, followed by the annual holiday display.

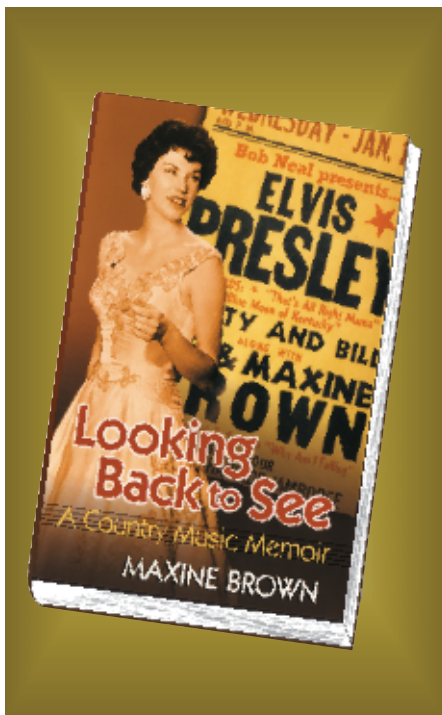
Country Fans Line Up for "Looking Back to See"

More than 200 friends and fans were on hand March 16 for the debut book signing of Maxine Brown's "Looking Back to See: A Country Music Memoir." Held in the Capitol's Old Supreme Court Room, the event was co-sponsored by Senator Steve Faris and Secretary of State Charlie Daniels in honor of the Sparkman native.

The book chronicles Brown's pioneering career with her sister Bonnie and brother Jim Ed in the legendary trio "The Browns." The group won international acclaim in the 1950s and 60s for their polished style that yielded hits such as

"Looking Back to See," and "I Heard the Bluebirds Sing." Their biggest success came in 1959 with "The Three Bells," a cross-over hit that landed the group on American Bandstand and The Ed Sullivan Show.

Released by the University of Arkansas Press, "Looking Back to See" is a revealing, first-hand history of the "Golden Age" of country music. The Capitol Gift Shop sold out of its initial shipment during the book signing, but a second shipment is now available. Signed copies will be on sale while supplies last.



Secretary Daniels and Senator Faris present a Capitol Citation to Maxine Brown to honor her pioneering music career and release of her memoir, "Looking Back to See."

A TALE OF TWO CAPITOLS

Visitors to the Arkansas Capitol sometimes ask if the building is in fact a 5/8- or 3/4-scale model of the national Capitol in Washington, D.C. The two buildings have a similar layout, profile and purpose, so this is a reasonable question, one with a long history. The short answer is "no," but undeniable similarities exist.

Comparing the buildings' basic measurements reveals considerable differences. The U.S. Capitol (USC) is 751 feet long at ground level, while the Arkansas Capitol (AC) is 440 feet long at the first floor — 59 percent as large as the USC. The USC is 350 feet wide at its widest point, while the ARC is 190 feet wide, or 54 percent of USC.

The buildings are closer in height: the Arkansas structure is about 230 feet tall, from ground level to the top of the gilded cupola's finial. The USC's own finial ends 288 feet above ground level. Thus, the AC is 80 percent as tall as the USC.

Comparing the total area is a little more complicated. The footprint of the USC is 175,170 square feet — about four acres. The footprint for the AC works out to just 91,200 square feet, or 52 percent of the USC figure. Floor area claimed for the USC is about 16 acres, or 717,090 square feet. Different architectural measurements of the AC range from a recent 242,160 square feet estimate to earlier estimates of as much as 286,982 square feet. That may sound

spacious, but at best it represents just 40 percent of the space available in the USC.

The AC's proportions differ significantly from those of the USC, so calling it a "scale replica" would not be accurate. Clear similarities exist in the design of both buildings; the Arkansas Capitol and the U.S. Capitol are textbook examples of the neoclassical style, which combines Doric, Ionic and Corinthian design elements. The layout of our Capitol (and of many other statehouses) echoes that of the federal Capitol. It's less a matter of imitation and more one of the function to house the branches of government.

For those determined to compare the overall sizes of the two capitols, the AC is approximately 5/8 the size of the USC when you compare length, width and height. However, the Arkansas Capitol is not a scale replica.



United States Capitol



Arkansas State Capitol



5-05

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